



CAPT.^N HENRY WILSON.

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A N
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
P E L E W I S L A N D S,

SITUATED IN THE
WESTERN PART OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

COMPOSED FROM
THE JOURNALS AND COMMUNICATIONS
O F
CAPTAIN HENRY WILSON,
AND SOME OF HIS OFFICERS,
WHO, IN AUGUST 1783, WERE THERE SHIPWRECKED,

I N
T H E A N T E L O P E,
A PACKET BELONGING TO THE HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY,
B Y
GEORGE KEATE, *Esq. F.R.S. and S.A.*

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N:
PRINTED FOR CAPTAIN WILSON;
AND SOLD BY G. NICOL, BOOKSELLER TO HIS MAJESTY, PALL-MALL.
M.DCC.LXXXVIII.

TO
THE CHAIRMAN,
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN,
AND
DIRECTORS
OF
THE HONOURABLE
EAST INDIA COMPANY,

THIS ACCOUNT OF
THE PELEW ISLANDS,
IS,

BY THEIR PERMISSION,
AND AT THE PARTICULAR DESIRE OF
CAPTAIN WILSON,
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY THEIR MOST OBEDIENT,

HUMBLE SERVANT,

GEORGE KEATE.

LONDON,
JUNE 12th, 1788.

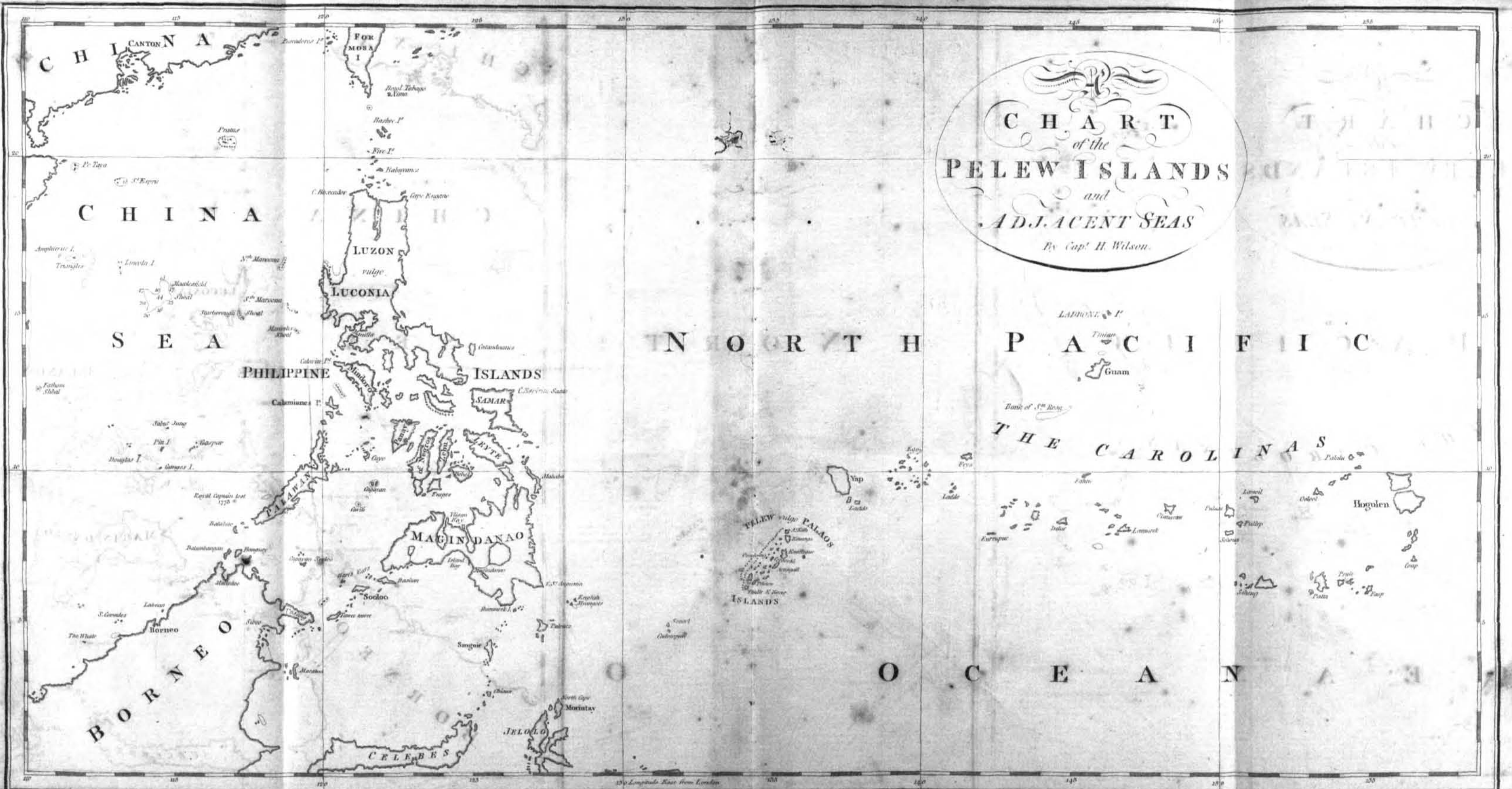


CHART
of the
PELEW ISLANDS
and
ADJACENT SEAS
By Cap^t H. Wilson.

. I N T R O D U C T I O N .

NOTHING hath more distinguished the reign of his present Majesty, than the liberality with which he hath encouraged the ardour of nautical discovery.—Although the voyages of other *European* nations have greatly increased our knowledge of the globe, yet as these were generally undertaken (some late voyages of the *French* excepted) from views either of ambition or of avarice, the improvement of science, and of geography, was but a secondary consideration;—it is not, therefore, to be wondered that the subject still remained imperfect, overclouded by doubt and uncertainty.—To dissipate these clouds, to remove existing errors, and to render what was dubious demonstrably clear, became highly interesting to almost every nation; and EUROPE, with eyes of admiration, beheld this important object not only undertaken, but to a surprizing degree executed, by the spirit and abilities of GREAT BRITAIN.

The exploring untraversed oceans, in spite of every danger that could menace, or dismay—the discovering
multitudes.

multitudes of islands, and of people, whose existence was not known before—and the fame of fixing the geography of the Southern World, were the noble fruits of this bold and hazardous enterprize; which will remain to succeeding ages a monument of the zeal and patronage of **GEORGE THE THIRD.**

Under such auspices, and under such navigators as this business was confided to, with each superadded assistance in the various sciences, what was there not to be hoped?—And it certainly, in no small degree, added to the spirit of the undertaking, that such an unexampled character as Mr. (now **SIR JOSEPH**) **BANKS** voluntarily accompanied Captain **COOK.**—As long as the history of that time shall exist, it will stamp the highest honour on his name, to have, in the prime of youth, sacrificed the blandishments of a noble fortune, to his ardour for information and science, without shrinking at the perils he might encounter from untried seas, and coasts that had never been explored.—And it equally reflects the highest credit on his discerning country; who, emulous to acknowledge the debt she owed his merit, seized the earliest opportunity, after his return, to make him **PRESIDENT** of the **ROYAL SOCIETY**; a situation the most honourable and distinguished she could offer a person of his genius and pursuits; where still, with the same ardour, he promotes her Fame, the zealous and liberal Patron of learning and of science.

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The relations of these several voyages having excited a great spirit of inquiry, and awakened an eager curiosity to every thing that can elucidate the history of mankind, I flatter myself, that no apology is necessary for my bringing forward the following Work, whose *Novelty* and *Authenticity* will, I trust, insure it a favourable reception.

The islands which I am about to describe were not discovered in consequence of any premeditated design; the INDIA packet, which Captain WILSON commanded, being in a tempest wrecked on their coast; and it is solely to the benevolent character of their inhabitants, we owe the safe return of our countrymen, that composed the crew of the ANTELOPE;—by the means of whom I am enabled to lay before the Public an account of this singular people.

Nothing can be more interesting to Man than the history of Man. The navigators of the different ages have pictured to us our own species in a variety of lights.—The manners of civilized nations bear a strong resemblance to each other; it is the vices or virtues of individuals, that create any general distinction;—whereas in countries, which science, or the gentler arts, have never reached, we observe a wonderful disparity; some are found under that darkness and absolute barbarism, from the sight of which humanity gladly turns aside;—whilst others, unaided, unassisted, but by mere natural good sense, have not only emerged from this gloomy shade, but nearly attained that order, propriety,
and

and good conduct, which constitute the essence of *real* civilization.—It is by very slow degrees, and through long periods of intervening ages, that nations, now the most polished, have arrived at their present state.—The mind of inquisitive man, too eager after knowledge which his limited faculties can never reach, often idly asks—*Wherefore all these varied gradations in human existence?* But his question will remain for ever unanswered, and he must content himself with being satisfied that the ways of PROVIDENCE are conducted with unerring wisdom, to answer purposes beyond mortal comprehension.—He will be far more wisely employed in feeling, with becoming gratitude, that he was not destined himself to be an inhabitant of TERRA DEL FUEGO, or to add one to the number of the forlorn savages of the NORTHERN POLE.

There is one question, indeed, and a very important one, which possibly may, at some future period, be successfully investigated;—how all the numerous islands, lately discovered, as well as the multitude of others, that are scattered through various parts of the vast ocean, were originally peopled?—This subject, which opens a wide field for conjecture to range over, hath already exercised the abilities of the ingenious—and, if ever satisfactorily ascertained, cannot fail to throw many interesting lights on the history of mankind.

The present account of the PELEW Islands, I have already

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observed, was offered to the Public under the double claim of *Novelty* and *Authenticity*. It is therefore incumbent on me to mention on what ground these claims are supported.

The islands in question were probably first noticed by some of the *Spaniards* of the PHILLIPINES, and by them named the PALOS ISLANDS; the tall palm-trees, which grow there in great abundance, having at a distance the appearance of masts of ships *.—That this was the origin of their name is rendered still more probable, as the *Spaniards* gave the same appellation to all the numerous islands of this Archipelago, the far greater part of which are now known by the name of the NEW CAROLINES.

In the *Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses*, written by the *Jesuit Missionaries*, may be found several letters, which, from their titles, seem to have a reference to, and which might be thought to relate to the cluster of islands which are the subject of the present Work; but whoever peruses them, with attention, will instantly see that they relate solely to the NEW CAROLINES, which were discovered about the year 1696, as may be seen by the letter of Father PAUL CLAIN, dated from *Manilla*, 10th of June 1697 †.—But even the accounts given by *him* of the NEW CAROLINES, were not in consequence of any *Spaniards* having been there, but merely such as he had received from some of their inhabitants, who, venturing too far to sea, had been driven by a storm to one of the

* *Palos*, in the *Spanish* language, nautically applied, denoting a mast.

† *Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses*, vol. i. page 112.

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PHILLIPINES. In consequence of this knowledge of the NEW CAROLINES, a ship, called the HOLY TRINITY, was, in 1710*, fitted out at *Manilla*, by order of PHILIP V. to carry two Missionaries, les Pères DUBERON and CORTIL, thither; who arriving off SONSOROL, one of the CAROLINES, the two Missionaries would go on shore in the chaloupe, to fix the Cross, against the opinion of DON PADILLA, the Captain, who, as he could find no anchorage, dissuaded them strongly from the attempt.—As the vessel then, after cruizing about for several days, to wait their return, could not, on account of the winds and currents, remain any longer on the station, the reverend Fathers were never heard of more. Another vessel was sent from the same place, some time after, to further the mission, which it was supposed the two former Jesuits had begun; but it foundered at sea, and all on board perished †, except one Indian, who at last got back to MANILLA with the melancholy news.

In 1721, another boat, belonging to one of the CAROLINES, with twenty-four people in it, was driven by force of winds to GUAHAN, one of the MARIANNES ‡, as appears by the letter of PERE JEAN ANTOINE CANTOVA, dated AGADNA, in March 1722.—These strangers being detained a considerable time, Le PERE CANTOVA tells us, that he endeavoured to acquire some knowledge of their language, that he might the better inform himself of their country.

* *Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses*. vol. xi. page 76.

† D°, vol. xvi. page 368.

‡ D°, vol. xviii. page 188.

In this letter, which contains fuller information than any of the others, he tells us, he understood from the natives that this Archipelago was divided into *five provinces*; and that the PELEW ISLANDS constituted the *fifth* province, or division; but these strangers, who gave him this intelligence, said, they had no communication with the people of this province, adding, that *they were inhuman and savage; that both men and women were entirely naked, and fed upon human flesh; that the inhabitants of the CAROLINES looked on them with horror, as the enemies of mankind, and with whom they held it dangerous to have any intercourse.*

This is the only mention I find of the PELEW people, and a dreadful picture it is of barbarous life; but the natives of the CAROLINES evidently knew nothing of them, but that they existed at a considerable distance from themselves; and probably the notion which they entertained, of their being cannibals, prevented their ever having any communication with them*.

To FOUR-FIFTHS of these islands, which accident had now brought the *Spaniards* acquainted with, they soon gave the name of the NEW CAROLINES; but as the Missionaries, who had unquestionably been well informed of the poverty and nakedness of them, apprehended that they were never

* *Le Pere CANTOVA* says, that this account is conformable to the relation of Father BERNARD MESSIA (probably another Missionary); but where this *relation* is to be found, I know not, having in vain searched for it. I therefore suppose it has not been published, though possibly may be preserved among the manuscript records of the PROPAGANDA at ROME.—Wherever it be, it could only be collected from such vague evidence as CANTOVA's; who, ~~was~~ himself, a short time after, *killed* by the people of the CAROLINES.

likely to become an object worthy of the attention of the *Spanish* monarchy, they were therefore, nearly from this period, neglected; and even to this day little more is known of them, than that they occupy a certain space on the surface of the globe.—But the FIFTH division of them, far distant from the rest, and inhabited by people who were branded with the imputation of being *inhuman, savage, and enemies of mankind*, were, in consequence, never since inquired after; and, though laid down in some late charts, under their original *Spanish* appellation of the PALOS islands, have continued till now in total obscurity.—They have, it is true, been seen, at different times, by ships making the *Eastern* passage to and from CHINA against the *monsoons*; yet no one appears to have ever landed there, or to have had any intercourse with the inhabitants; nor have they lain in the track of any of the circumnavigators; Captain CARTERET, in his course, approached them the nearest.

From the above observations, and the great astonishment which the natives of PELEW discovered on seeing *white people*, it seems beyond a doubt that the crew of the ANTELOPE were the first *Europeans* who had ever landed on these islands; and it seems equally certain, that their nearest neighbours in the adjoining Archipelago knew nothing of them.—I therefore feel some satisfaction in being the instrument of introducing to the world a *new people*;—and a far greater one, in having the means in my power, of vindicating their injured characters from the imputation of those *savage manners*

manners which ignorance alone had ascribed to them; for I am confident that every Reader, when he has gone through the present account of them with attention, will be convinced that these unknown natives of PELEW, so far from *disgracing*, live an *ornament* to human nature.

The part I have taken in this work originated from my knowledge of Captain WILSON's veracity, and from my being highly interested with the account he gave of the inhabitants of these islands, which was so happily illustrated by the good sense and amiable manners of the young Prince LEE BOO, whom, at the King his father's request, he had brought with him to ENGLAND.

I frequently mentioned to my valuable friend, Mr. BROOK WATSON, (through whom I had first been acquainted with Captain WILSON) that I thought the whole chain of events, following the loss of the ANTELOPE, well merited the public eye, wishing him to submit the matter to his friend's consideration;—but, after three quarters of a year, I perceived that the Captain's own affairs, his natural diffidence, and probably his inexperience in preparing properly such a work, rendered him little disposed to the undertaking—and, as he was then preparing to go out again to INDIA, the account was in danger of being totally lost.

Struck as I was with the relation of the virtues and character of the natives of these islands—sensible how soon oral testimony is beyond recovery, and the records of memory effaced by the events or casualties of life—I felt anx-

ious to rescue these discoveries from sliding into oblivion, and to preserve them to the curiosity and information of the Public; I therefore engaged a volunteer in the business, proposing to Mr. WATSON, that if his friend Captain WILSON would give me his journals and papers, and procure me all the living testimonies then in ENGLAND, that I would myself undertake the work;—on this condition, that the labour should be mine, the advantage Captain WILSON'S.

After I had, with great attention, gone over all the journals and papers, and transcribed them, the better to fix them in my memory, and to direct my future inquiries, I had the benefit of a reference, both to Captain WILSON and his son, during their stay in ENGLAND, for what further or fuller information I required; and, after the Captain's departure, I had also, in the beginning of 1786, whilst the facts were recent, the assistance and information of such of his officers as remained in this country; who, for many weeks, were so good as to devote themselves, as it individually suited them, to this business. The transactions of every day, as recorded in the journals, were minutely gone through; and it was a great pleasure to me, in taking their separate relations, to find no material difference in their accounts of the facts or occurrences, but, on the contrary, the most perfect agreement. Thus, enlarged by the additions of the Gentlemen (who were themselves in some scenes the sole actors) the Work, for a year and a half, lay dormant, waiting Captain WILSON'S return from BENGAL, who arrived
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the latter end of last summer: since that time every part of it hath been revised, and gone over, with the most scrupulous exactness and attention; and I am myself firmly persuaded, no work of this nature was ever presented to the Public, in every respect better authenticated.

I should not have thought it necessary to have mentioned the manner in which I have conducted this publication, had I not been aware of there being scenes and situations in it which might startle many of my readers; but, as the truth of them can be fully established, they will serve to prove that good sense, and moral rectitude, may exist in many uncivilized regions, where the prejudices and arrogance of polished life are not always disposed to admit them.

Those who are acquainted with the voyages to the SOUTH SEAS, must have remarked a great similitude in the manners of the islands scattered over that immense ocean; at the same time it cannot have escaped their notice, that there are customs and characters peculiar to almost every particular group.—The same observation is applicable to the inhabitants of the PELEW ISLANDS; who, tho' in many respects resembling their *Southern* neighbours, must be allowed to have many characteristic features of their own—which an intelligent reader will easily discover.

As there was a draughtsman on board the ANTELOPE, besides two or three young men acquainted with drawing, a faithful portrait of the King of PELEW, and one of his wives, together with some picturesque views of the country,

were by their means obtained.—Captain WILSON was presented, before he left the islands, with many of their weapons and utensils, from which the plates contained in this Work have been accurately engraved.—And I am happy to have it in my power to add to these the portrait of Prince LEE BOO, drawn by my Daughter, and which, though done from memory, fifteen months after his death, is acknowledged to be a very striking likeness by every one who knew him.

To the late discoveries, which have so greatly increased our knowledge of the globe, and of the human race, if the little cluster of islands I am now unveiling to the world (which may truly be regarded as a rich jewel, sparkling on the bosom of the ocean) shall be deemed by the Public an interesting acquisition, Captain WILSON will not have been shipwrecked in vain; and I shall ever think that the time I have bestowed on this Work hath been usefully employed.

N. B. In sending this Second Edition to the Press, it may not be improper to say, that no Alteration whatever has been made in it from the former one, but merely the changing, or erasing a few unnecessary Words, which, in the hurry of a first Publication, had escaped my Notice.

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C H A P T E R I.

Departure of the ANTELOPE from MACAO.—List of the Ship's Company.—Route and Transactions prior to the Loss of the Vessel.

THE ANTELOPE, a packet of near 300 tons burthen, in the service of the Honourable ENGLISH EAST INDIA Company, under the command of Captain HENRY WILSON, having arrived at MACAO in the month of June 1783, the Captain received orders from the Company's supra-cargoes to refit his ship with all possible speed; which being completed, on Sunday the 20th of July, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he received his dispatches, and the ship being ready for sea, he took leave of the Council; and about half past three o'clock went on board, accompanied by Messrs. BROWN, LANE, BRUCE, and PEACH, as also Mr. MORGAN, surgeon; and after the Captain had paid the

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sixteen *Chinese* men (with which they had been allowed to augment their ship's company) the advance-money usual on these occasions, they weighed anchor, and their friends went on shore, whom they saluted at going away with nine guns. The weather becoming unsettled and hazy, at nine o'clock in the evening they anchored in 7 fathom water.— As in the course of this narrative we shall find the ship's company at times collectively and separately engaged, it will not be improper at the outset to mention the names of the *Europeans* who were in the ANTELOPE, with their particular distinction and situation on board.

Names.	Stations.
HENRY WILSON - - - -	Commander.
PHILIP BENDER * - - -	Chief Mate.
PETER BARKER - - - -	Second Mate.
JOHN CUMMIN - - - -	Third Mate.
JOHN SHARP - - - -	Surgeon.
ARTHUR WILLIAM DEVIS -	Passenger.
JOHN BLANCH - - - -	Gunner.
WILLIAM HARVEY - - -	Boatswain.
JOHN POLKINGHORN - - -	Carpenter.
JOHN MEALE - - - -	Cooper and Steward.
RICHARD JENKINS - - -	Carpenter's Mate.
JAMES SWIFT - - - -	Cook.
RICHARD SHARP - - - -	Midshipman.
HENRY WILSON, Junior - -	Ditto, son to the Captain.

* The names thus marked, are the only men at this time known with certainty to be dead.

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Names.	Stations.	1783. JULY.
JOHN WEDGEBROUGH - - -	{ Two youths from Christ's Ho- spital, apprentices, and acting as midshipmen.	
ROBERT WHITE - - -		
ALBERT PIERSON - - -	Quarter Master.	
GODFRY MINKS * - - -	Ditto.	
THOMAS DULTON - - -	Captain's Steward.	
JOHN COOPER - - -	Scaman.	
WILLIAM ROBERTS - - -	Ditto.	
JAMES DUNCAN - - -	Ditto.	
MATTHIAS WILSON - - -	Ditto, brother to the Captain.	
NICHOLAS TYACKE - - -	Ditto.	
JAMES BLUITT - - -	Ditto.	
THOMAS WILLSON * - - -	Ditto.	
WILLIAM STEWART - - -	Ditto.	
MADAN BLANCHARD - - -	Ditto.	
THOMAS WHITFIELD - - -	Ditto.	
WILLIAM COBBLEDICK - - -	Ditto.	
ZACHARIAH ALLEN - - -	Ditto.	
THOMAS CASTLES - - -	Ditto.	
DEDRICK WINDLER - - -	Ditto.	
THOMAS ROSE * - - -	{ Linguist, a native of BENGAL, calling himself a <i>Portuguese</i> .	

At five o'clock in the morning they again weighed anchor, and set sail, having a fine breeze from the E. N. E. and between six and seven o'clock their pilot left them. Monday 21.

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About nine o'clock, being got to some distance from the land, they met with a very high sea, which obliged them to lay to, in order to secure their cattle, and other live stock, as also their anchors, cables, and harbour-rigging. About eleven o'clock they made fail again, and by a very good observation. at noon, were in latitude $21^{\circ} 28'$ north; at the same time could just see the land bearing north, at the distance of about eleven leagues, as near as they could judge, the weather being rather hazy. In the afternoon the lashings of the booms broke, and they fell to leeward, which obliged them to keep the ship before the wind until they were replaced and secured, which having done, they resumed their course. In the evening, observing it to lighten very strongly from the southward, they close reefed their top-sails, expecting it to blow from that quarter.

Tuesday 22.

Next day the weather continued moderate but cloudy; and they had a great sea from the eastward, which made the ship labour, so as to oblige them to pump every two hours. The boatswain and carpenter were both taken ill in the night with a cold and a slight fever. In the afternoon a sail was seen to the S. E. which they took to be a PORTUGUESE vessel bound to MACAO. The wind veered round to the southward this day; no observation of latitude.

Wednesday
23.

The wind southerly, with cloudy weather and some light squalls and rain. They noticed this forenoon several rippings in the water, as if in a tide or current; the sea was somewhat

somewhat fallen, and the ship made less water. No observation of latitude this day, the sun being in their zenith.

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The weather was very squally, with rain and a great swell. The boatswain and carpenter were much recovered, so as to be able to go about their duty, in securing the ports and preparing the ship for bad weather. By an indifferent observation at noon, they found themselves in latitude $19^{\circ} 29'$ north.

Thursday
24.

The weather continued very dark and cloudy, with thunder, lightning, and hard rain, so that the ship was in a manner deluged, and every one wet and uncomfortable. About three o'clock in the afternoon they saw the appearance of land from the deck, being the BASHEE Islands, bearing from S. E. to E. N. E. At six o'clock the northernmost Island bore N. E. by E. At night the weather being but indifferent and hazy, so that they could not keep sight of the land, they shortened sail and lay to till the morning.

Friday 25.

At day-break they again saw the land to leeward of them, being the same they had seen the night before; from this circumstance they concluded there was no current; and as soon as the light opened a little more upon them, they made sail and bore away before the wind, to go round the northernmost island, which they did at about four or five miles distance. The weather being hazy when they first saw the land, they had but a very imperfect view of the islands. The first appeared to be long and tolerably even.

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The second was likewise long, of a pretty equal height, except in two or three places, where it seemed to rise into hills: near the middle of it was one very remarkable, from its being in shape like a CHINA or TARTAR woman's hat. The third island shewed like two rugged-topped mountains, joined together by low land. The fourth was a high, large, double-peaked rock, appearing to have little soil or wood upon it. The fifth was very high and uneven, devoid of wood, except a few green bushes towards its summit. There were no signs of inhabitants upon any of these islands, and the weather being squally, our people soon lost sight of them; at noon they were in latitude $21^{\circ} 14'$ north, by observation, when, having run about fifteen leagues to the eastward of the islands, they hauled up more to the southward, in hopes to get into smoother water, and better weather than they had hitherto met with since leaving MACAO. Soon after noon, the man at the mast-head discovered the foretop-mast to be sprung; they immediately took in the sails, and got down the topgallant-mast, and prepared to get down the top-mast, but were obliged to desist on account of the weather, until

Sunday 27. the morning, when it proving fair, with tolerably smooth water, all hands went busily to work to get up a new foretop-mast, and to dry and air the ship, as also to secure what cattle and stock remained, much having perished in the rains and bad weather. The next morning also being fine and fair, this opportunity was embraced to open the ports,

Monday 28. and

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and wash and cleanse the ship below, as well as to overhaul and clean their small arms, and give the officers instructions for the voyage. In the evening there was very hard rain, with variable winds.

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Tuesday 29.

But the succeeding day, the wind being favourable, gave them an opportunity of examining and drying some of their provision, particularly some *Chinese* hams and dry fish, which constituted part of their victualling, and had got damp in the excessive rains. They saw a great quantity of fish swimming about the ship, but could not catch any, as they would not take the baits. No rains during the last twenty-four hours, but the next morning the weather became overcast and they were again visited with rain in the evening, which continued very hard all night and the succeeding day, with variable winds, so that they made very little progress on their voyage. The next morning was more moderate, and towards noon the weather cleared up and they got an observation, by which they found their latitude was $16^{\circ} 25'$ north.

Wednesday
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Thursday
31.

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Friday 1.

In the afternoon it fell calm, which gave them the means of trying the current, which they found to set to the E. N. E. at the rate of half a mile an hour. In the evening Captain WILSON exercised some of the *Chinese* men with rowing in the jolly-boat for an hour or two, to teach them to use an oar when needful. The following day being fair, and the wind moderate, all were again employed in clearing and cleaning the ship and setting up the rigging. In the after-

Saturday 2.

noon

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- noon they had an observation for the longitude, by the distance of the sun and moon, by which they found themselves in 126 degrees and a half east of GREENWICH. The following morning being also fair, divine service was performed upon deck; a ceremony never omitted on Sundays when the weather would allow of it. In the afternoon they got another observation for the longitude, which confirmed that taken the preceding day. At night they met with fresh gales of wind, squally weather, and much rain, which continued most part of the next day; towards the evening of which they saw numbers of birds and fish, likewise some drifts of pieces of wood or bamboo, they therefore altered their course more to the southward, and went under an easy sail, keeping a good look out, until morning, when it being very tempestuous they brought to, and handed their topails, which before had been close reefed. The weather continued to blow a storm till about mid-day of the 7th, during which time they could show but very little sail, being obliged to lay to under the storm stay-sails; the storm then abating, and the weather clearing up, they got an observation for the latitude, by which they found themselves in 10° 16' north. In the afternoon the wind was southerly, with fresh gales, but dry, so that they were able the following morning to clean between decks, and also to fumigate the ship with gunpowder. The cattle had all perished in the last storm, except one bullock; the she-goat also, having kidded in this bad weather,

weather,

weather, died together with her young. In the afternoon the weather became more moderate, so that they were able to make sail and to proceed on their voyage; and the next day the weather was so fine they were enabled to open their ports to air and dry the ship below, as also again to examine their provision and stores, and get every thing into order. They were now proceeding cheerfully on their voyage, fondly flattering themselves that the adverse weather, and the anxieties it had awakened, were all at an end, when they were suddenly overwhelmed with those misfortunes which are related in the following narrative.

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Saturday 9.

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CHAPTER II.

Loss of the ANTELOPE, and the immediate Distresses arising from the Accident.

Sunday 10.

THE wind having freshened after midnight, the sky became overcast, with much lightning, thunder, and rain. Mr. BENDER, the chief mate, having the watch upon deck, had lowered the top-sails, and was going to reef them with the people upon duty; judging from the thunder that the weather would break and clear up, and only prove a slight squall, he did not think it necessary to call the hands out, or acquaint the Captain, who had only quitted the deck at twelve o'clock. The people being upon the yards reefing the sails, the man who was on the look-out called *Breakers!* but so short was the notice, that the call of *Breakers* had scarce reached the officer upon deck before the ship struck. The horror and dismay this unhappy event threw every body into was dreadful; the *Captain*, and all those who were below in their beds, sprang upon deck in an instant, anxious to know the cause of this sudden shock to the ship, and the confusion above; a moment convinced them of their distressed situation; the

breakers along-side, through which the rocks made their appearance, presented the most dreadful scene, and left no room for doubt. The ship taking a heel, in less than an hour filled with water as high as the lower deck hatchways; during this tremendous interval, the people thronged round the Captain, and earnestly requested to be directed what to do, beseeching him to give orders and they would immediately execute them. Orders were in consequence instantly given to secure the gunpowder, ammunition, and small arms, and that the bread, and such other provision as would spoil by wet, should be brought upon deck and secured by some covering from the rain; while others were directed to cut away the mizen-mast, the main and foretop-mast, and lower yards, to ease the ship and prevent her oversetting, of which they thought there was some hazard, and that every thing should be done to preserve her as long as possible (the sails having all been clewed up as soon as the ship struck). The boats were hoisted out, and filled with provision and water, together with a compass in each, some small arms, and ammunition; and two men were placed in each boat, with directions to keep them under the lee of the ship, and be careful they were not staved, and to be ready to receive their ship-mates in case the vessel should break to pieces by the dashing of the waves and the violence of the wind, it then blowing a storm. Every thing that could be thought expedient in so distressful and

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trying an occasion was executed with a readiness and obedience hardly ever exceeded. The people all now assembled aft, the quarter-deck laying highest out of the water, the quarter-boards afforded some little shelter from the sea and rain; here, after contemplating a few moments their wretched situation, the Captain endeavoured to revive their drooping spirits, which began to sink through anxiety and fatigue, by reminding them that shipwreck was a misfortune to which those who navigate the ocean were always liable; that their situation indeed was more difficult, from happening in an unknown and unfrequented sea, but that this consideration should rouse their most active attention, as much must depend on themselves to be extricated from their distress; that when these misfortunes happened, they were often rendered more dreadful than they otherwise would be by the despair and disagreement of the crew; to avoid which, it was strongly recommended to every individual not to drink any spirituous liquor. A ready consent was given to this advice; but they being all wet and fatigued with excessive labour, it was thought adviseable to take some refreshment, and therefore a glass of wine and some biscuit was given to each person; after eating, a second glass of wine was given them, and they now waited with the utmost anxiety the return of day, in hope of seeing land, for as yet they had not discovered any; the third mate and one of the quarter-masters *only*, in the momentary interval of a dreadful
flash

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flash of lightning, imagined they had seen the appearance of land ahead of the ship. During these anxious moments, they endeavoured to console and cheer one another, and each was advised to clothe and prepare himself to quit the ship when necessity should make that step inevitable; and herein the utmost good order and regularity was observed, not a man offering to take any thing but what truly belonged to himself, nor did any one of them either ask for, or attempt to take a dram, or complain of the negligence or misconduct of the watch or any particular person. The dawn of day discovered to their view a small island to the southward, about three or four leagues distant, and soon after some other islands were seen to the eastward. They now felt apprehensive on account of the inhabitants, to whose dispositions they were strangers; however, after manning the boats, and loading them in the best manner they could for the general good, such of the crew as departed from the ship under the care of Mr. BENDER, were earnestly requested to endeavour to obtain a friendly intercourse with the inhabitants if they found any, and carefully to avoid any disagreement unless reduced to the last necessity, as the fate of all might depend upon the first interview. As soon as the boats were gone, those who remained went immediately to work to get the booms overboard, in order to make a raft to secure themselves, as the ANTELOPE was hourly

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hourly expected to go to pieces, and the utmost ~~disquiet~~ ^{disquietude} was entertained for the safety of the boats, not only on account of the natives, but also of the weather, it continuing to blow very hard.—In the afternoon they perceived with inexpressible joy the boats coming off; a sight the more welcome, as they were fearful from their long stay, they had met with some disaster, either from the inhabitants, or the storm; they were however happily relieved from this anxiety by their getting safe to the ship about four o'clock, having left the stores and five men on shore. They brought the welcome news that there was no appearance of inhabitants on the island where they had landed; that they had found a secure harbour well sheltered from the weather, and also some fresh water. Every one now pursued his labour with renovated spirits to complete the raft, which was in great forwardness when the boats returned; this being completed, they took a second refreshment of bread and wine, each individual having strictly conformed to the promise made to Captain WILSON, not to drink any strong liquor. We must not omit here mentioning a melancholy accident which happened among the events of this disastrous morning; soon after day-break the mizen-mast being found near the ship's stern, and some of the rigging entangled in the mizen-chains, GODFREY MINKS went to cut it adrift, in doing this he unfortunately slipped and fell overboard, and although the boats, which

which were not then gone, went instantly to his assistance, he was unfortunately drowned, owing, as was supposed, to having encumbered himself with too many clothes, when he prepared himself, as before related, to be ready to quit the ship.

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The raft being now completed, was loaded with as much provision and stores as it could carry, consistently with the safety of the people who were to go on it. The pinnace and jolly-boat were likewise filled with provision, ammunition, and small arms, in which was placed their greatest security. The people being still anxiously employed in saving whatever they could, and the ship beginning to have a little motion from the rising of the tide, there was great apprehension that the main-mast would fall over the side, in which case it must have dropt on the raft, and, by destroying it, have rendered all their labours fruitless. The raft and pinnace being ready to depart, and the evening advancing, the boatswain was desired to go into the ship, and wind his call, in order to alarm those who were busily employed below (and whom Captain WILSON had repeatedly entreated to desist) to go into the boats and raft, that they might endeavour to get on shore before night, and secure what they had already got out of the ship. And here it may be worth while to notice the great care and attention of the carpenter, who was so intent on saving what tools and stores he could, that he remained below after the pinnace and raft had departed, and

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Captain WILSON was obliged to compel him to go into the jolly-boat, so anxious was he to provide and take with him whatever he thought might contribute to their future relief.

Thus with aching hearts, and deep melancholy, they quitted the ANTELOPE, totally ignorant of their future destiny. The pinnace, with some of the stoutest of the ship's crew, took the raft in tow; the jolly-boat also assisted, by towing the pinnace till they had cleared the reef; after which, being too heavily laden to be of much further aid, those in the pinnace cast loose their rope, and the jolly-boat proceeded alone to the shore, where they arrived about eight o'clock at night, and found their companions who had been left in the morning. These few men had not been idle, or unmindful of their fellow-sufferers; having employed themselves in clearing away a spot of ground, and erecting a small tent with a sail, in readiness for their reception. The situation both of those on the raft, as well as those in the pinnace, was truly dreadful till they had cleared the reef (which was more than half an hour); by the great surf and spray of the sea, the pinnace and raft were often out of sight of each other; those on the latter were obliged to tie themselves, and cling to it with all their strength, to prevent being washed off; and the shrieks of the *Chinese*, less inured to the perils of an element they were then conflicting with, did not a little aggravate the horror of the scene.

Having

Having cleared the reef, and got into the channel which flows between that and the islands, they found themselves in deep water, and a less disturbed sea; they hoisted the sails of the pinnace, and got on; but as they approached the land, perceiving a strong current, which set them much to leeward of the island where they had left the stores and people in the morning, they dropped their sails and rowed. They found the current still much stronger as they got nearer the shore, and though every man exerted his utmost strength, they still continued to drop to leeward. Feeling now their inability to resist the current, and the strength of the rowers being almost exhausted, it was judged for the safety of all, that the pinnace should take the people from off the raft, and bring the raft to a grapnel during the night. These additional men from the raft double banked the oars of the pinnace, and relieved the rowers, but at the same time they so crowded her, that she could barely keep above water, being then close under a rocky coast, in about sixteen fathom water (as they afterwards better knew). They were only able to advance slowly; but as they drew nearer to the island whither the others were gone before, the jolly-boat having unladen her cargo, Captain WILSON with four people, was returning in her, to lighten the raft and pinnace, and give them full assistance, and it being dark, hailed the pinnace at a distance. Whether it was from the great fatigue the people had sustained while

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on the raft, or from their voice and spirits being exhausted, or from the sudden joy of perceiving they were so near again to their comrades, but the halloo was answered in so shrill and unaccustomed a manner, that those who were in the jolly-boat, who had previously heard the paddling of oars, supposed they were natives; as the people who had remained on shore in the morning with the stores, had discovered, after the boats had left them, traces of some people having been lately upon the island, by seeing places where there had been fires, with some fish bones and pieces of cocoa-nut shells scattered about, which had not the appearance of having lain long there; these circumstances inducing the jolly-boat's crew to conclude, that the return of the halloo came from a party of the natives, they precipitately returned back into the cove. The pinnace arriving soon after, all these alarms were dissipated, and an universal joy spread itself over every countenance on seeing one another again on dry land. They shook hands together with the utmost cordiality, every one feeling those emotions that could ill be expressed by the most forcible language. They got part of a cheese, some biscuit, and a little water, for their supper; and by discharging a pistol, loaded with powder, into some match which they picked loose to serve as tinder, they kindled a fire in the cove, where they dried their clothes, which were thoroughly wet, and slept on the ground alternately,

under the covering of the tent which had been raised. The night proved very uncomfortable on many accounts; the rain and wind were heavy, and the distress of their situation not a little increased by the fear of the ship going to pieces, from the tempestuous weather, before they should be able to save from her such necessaries as might be useful to them. They hauled their boats on shore, and set a watch, lest they might happen to be surprized by any of the natives.

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The constant perspiration the people had been in, added to their being perpetually wet with the salt water, had produced an irritation on their skins, which, with the added friction of their clothes from severe labour, had excoriated them in a manner to make them most miserably sore. At dawn of day, both the pinnace and jolly-boat were sent to the raft, to try and bring it up; but the wind blowing very hard, they were afraid to attempt moving it; they were, however, fortunate enough to get the remainder of the provision and sails from it, and returned about noon.

Monday 11.

The weather proving more moderate in the afternoon, the boats were sent to the wreck to bring away some rice, and other provision, as also to procure what necessaries they could for the people, who, as we have already said, stood in great need of them.

Those who remained on shore were employed in drying their powder, and cleaning and fitting their arms for use,

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in case of need; and as the boats did not return till ten o'clock in the evening, it spread amongst their companions much alarm for their safety, as the night came on with very heavy weather; nor indeed were their spirits rendered tranquil by their arrival, for the chief mate and crew, who returned with the pinnace, brought the melancholy intelligence, that they did not conceive, from the badness of the weather, that the ship could hold together till morning, as she was beginning to part, the *bends* or *wales* being started out of their places. The ideas which had been fondly nursed, that when a calm succeeded there was a possibility she might be floated and repaired, so as to return to MACAO, or some part of CHINA, were by this account totally extinguished. The prospect now darkened round them, fear pictured strongly every danger, and hope could hardly find an inlet through which one ray of consolation might shoot. They knew nothing of the inhabitants of that country where fate had thrown them; ignorant of their manners and dispositions, as well as of the hostile scenes they might have to encounter for their safety; they found themselves, by this sudden accident, cut off at once from the rest of the world, with little probability of their ever again getting away. Each individual threw back his remembrance to some dear object that affection had rivetted to his heart, who might be in vain looking out anxiously for the return of the father, the husband, or the friend, whom there was scarcely

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scarcely the most distant chance of their ever seeing any more. These reflections did not contribute to make the night comfortable; the weather was far more tempestuous than in the preceding one; but the clothes which the people had procured from the wreck proved a great comfort to them all, who were thereby enabled to have a change.

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CHAPTER III.

First Appearance of the Natives.—The curious and friendly Interview between them and the English.—Captain WILSON'S Brother sent to the King of PELEW, the King's Brother remaining with our People.

Tuesday 12.

AT day-break, as it blew exceedingly hard, so that the boats could not venture to sea, every one went to work, to dry the stores and provisions between the showers; and many were busied to form better tents with such materials as they had saved. About eight o'clock in the morning Captain WILSON and TOM ROSE being on the beach collecting water which dropped from the rocks, the people who were employed in clearing away the ground, in the wood behind them, gave notice that some of the natives were approaching, as they perceived a canoe coming round the point into the bay; this gave so much alarm that the people all flew to the arms; however, as there were only two canoes, and those having but few men in them, the people were desired to remain still, and out of sight, until they should perceive what reception the Captain and TOM ROSE met with, whom they were convinced the natives had

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had discovered, as they conversed together, and kept steadfastly looking towards that part of the shore where they were; our people were desired to be prepared for the worst, but by no means to appear for the present, or shew any signs of distrust when they did, unless the behaviour of the natives to them should render it absolutely necessary. In this short interval of time the canoes had advanced cautiously towards the shore, where they stood, when Captain WILSON desired TOM ROSE to speak to them in the *Malay* language, which they did not seem to understand, but stopped their canoes; yet soon after one of them spoke in the *Malay* tongue, and asked who they were? and whether they were friends or enemies? To these questions TOM ROSE was directed to reply, “That they were unfortunate *Englishmen*, who had lost their ship upon the reef, and “had saved their lives, and were their friends.” Upon this they spoke a few words together (which was since supposed to have been the *Malay* man explaining to them what had been said); and presently they stepped out of the canoes into the water, and came towards the shore, on which Captain WILSON waded into the water to meet them, and embracing them in a friendly manner, conducted them to the shore, and introduced them to his officers and unfortunate companions; they were eight in number, two of whom it was afterwards known were brothers to the King. They left one man in each canoe; and, as they were coming

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coming into the cove, seemed to look round with great watchfulness, as if fearful of being betrayed; nor would they seat themselves near the tents, but kept close to the beach, that in case of danger they might immediately regain their canoes. Our people now going to breakfast, they were presented with some tea, and some sweet biscuits, made at CHINA, of which two or three jars had been saved. Only Captain WILSON, and one or two more, with TOM ROSE the interpreter, breakfasted with them; for, as they would probably have entertained doubts of our people, had the *English* surrounded them to gratify curiosity, they might, from their apprehensions, have hastily departed. In the little conversation which during breakfast could be obtained, a wish was expressed to the *Malay* they brought with them, of knowing by what event he chanced to be there. This fellow, beside his own and the PELEW language, spoke a little *Dutch*, and some words of *English*: he gave the following account of himself, * viz.—That he commanded a trading vessel belonging to a CHINA man at TERNATE, had been on a trading voyage to AMBOYNA and BANTAM, and had been cast away, about ten months before, upon an island to the southward, which was within sight of where he then was; that he escaped from thence to PELEW, and had been kindly received by the King, who, he

* The future conduct and behaviour of this MALAY gave reason to suspect there was little truth in the account he gave of himself.

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told them, was a very good man, and that his people also were courteous.

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He further acquainted them, that a canoe having been out fishing, had seen the ship's mast lying down; and that the King being informed of it, sent off these two canoes, at four o'clock that morning, to enquire what was become of the people; that they knowing well this harbour, had come to it first, being a place where the canoes, when fishing, often shelter themselves in hard weather.—They sat about an hour with Captain WILSON, tasted the tea, but seemed to like better the biscuits, and appeared now to feel themselves relieved from every apprehension. They wished that one of our people might be sent in their canoes to the RUPACK, or King, that he might see what sort of people they were; which was agreed to by Captain WILSON, who, after breakfast was ended, introduced to them several of his officers; these, as they came up, shook hands with the natives, who being informed by the *Malay* that this was the mode of salutation amongst the *English*, they went to every man present, and took him by the hand, nor ever after omitted this token of regard, as often as they met our countrymen.

It often pleases Providence, in the most trying hours of difficulty and distress, to throw open some unlooked-for source of consolation to the spirits of the unfortunate!—It was a singular accident, that Captain REES of the NOR-

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THUMBERLAND should, at MACAO, have recommended to Captain WILSON, TOM ROSE as a servant, who spoke the *Malay* language perfectly well.

It was a still more singular circumstance, that a tempest should have thrown a *Malay* on this spot, who had as a stranger been noticed and favoured by the King, and having been near a year on the island previous to the loss of the ANTELOPE, was become acquainted with the language of the country; by this extraordinary event both the ENGLISH and the inhabitants of PELEW had each an interpreter who could converse freely together in the *Malay* tongue, and TOM ROSE speaking *English*, an easy intercourse was immediately opened on both sides, and all those impediments removed at once, which would have arisen among people who had no means of conveying their thoughts to one another by language, but must have trusted to signs and gestures, which, to those born in climates so remotely separated, might have given rise to a thousand misconceptions.—The natives perceiving the boats preparing to be launched, imagined it was for departure; but being told that our men were only going off to the wreck to fetch more stores and necessaries on shore, they said they would send one of their people with them, to prevent any canoes from molesting them.

The natives were of a deep copper colour, perfectly naked, having no kind of covering whatsoever; their skins very soft and glossy, owing, as was known afterwards,

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to the external use of cocoa-nut oil. Each Chief had in his hand a basket of BEETLE-NUT, and a bamboo finely polished and inlaid at each end, in which they carried their *Cbinam*; this is coral burnt to a lime, which they shake out through one end of the bamboo where they carry it, on the leaf of the BEETLE-NUT, before they chew it, to render it more useful, or palatable. It was observed that all their teeth were black, and that the *Beetle-nut* and *Cbinam*, of which they had always a quid in their mouths, rendered the saliva red, which, together with their black teeth, gave their mouths a very disgusting appearance.—They were of a middling stature, very straight, and muscular, their limbs well formed, and had a particular majestic manner in walking; but their legs, from a little above their ankles to the middle of their thighs, were tattooed so very thick, as to appear dyed of a far deeper colour than their skin: their hair was of a fine black, long, and rolled up behind in a simple manner close to the back of their heads, and appeared both neat and becoming.—None of them, except the younger of the King's two brothers, had a beard; and it was afterwards observed, in the course of a longer acquaintance with them, that they in general plucked out their beards by the root; a very few only, who had strong thick beards, cherished them and let them grow.—As they now seemed to feel no longer any restraint, they were conducted round the cove; the ground was as yet but

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slightly and partially cleared, much broken shells and rock, together with thorny plants and shrubs remaining over it, nor could our people help being surprized at seeing them, barefooted as they were, walk over all this rough way as perfectly at ease as if it had been the smoothest ground. But if the uncommon appearance of the natives of PELEW excited surprize in the *English*, their appearance, in return, awakened in their visitors a far greater degree of astonishment.—Our countrymen, during all the time they remained in these islands, were perfectly convinced, that the inhabitants had never before seen a white man, it was therefore little to be wondered that they viewed them as a new and a very extraordinary race of beings: all they observed, and all they touched, made them exclaim *weel! weel!* and sometimes *weel a trecoy!* which the *Malay* informed them was a declaration of being well pleased.—They began with stroaking the bodies and arms of the *English*, or rather their waistcoats and coat sleeves, as if they doubted whether the garment and the man were not of the same substance; but were told by the *Malay*, that the *English* in their own climate being exposed to far greater cold, were accustomed always to be covered, and had coverings of different kinds to put on as occasion required, so that they could be always dry and warm. Our people plainly perceived, by the gestures of the *Malay* and the natives, that this was what they were conversing about; nor could they avoid observing, by the countenances

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of the latter, the quickness with which they seemed to comprehend whatever information the *Malay* gave them. The next thing they noticed was our people's hands, and the blue veins of their wrists; and they probably considered the white skin of the hands and face as artificial, and the veins as the *English* manner of tattooing, for they immediately requested, that the jacket-sleeves of the men might be drawn up, to see if their arms were of the same colour as their hands and faces: satisfied in this particular, they expressed a further wish to see their bodies; upon which some of the men opened their bosoms, and gave them to understand that all the rest of their body was of the same colour.—They seemed much astonished at finding hair on their breasts, it being considered with them as a great mark of indelicacy, inasmuch that they eradicate it from every part of the body in both sexes.

They afterwards walked about, testifying great curiosity, but at the same time expressing a fear that they intruded too much. As they had come on shore unarmed, this consideration induced Captain WILSON, before he shewed them the tents, to order that all the fire-arms should be put out of sight, by covering them with a sail, that the mutual confidence, which had so happily sprung up on both sides, might not be chilled, or overshadowed by the slightest mistrust; but this well-conceived intention was frustrated by an accident.—As our people were conducting them to the tents, close by the entrance, one of the natives picked up a bullet, which had
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been casually dropped on the ground, and immediately expressed his surprize, that a substance so small to the eye should be so very ponderous to the touch; he shewed it directly to the *Malay*, who described to him the use of it, and seemed to be expatiating on the nature of fire-arms, for when he had done he wished that one of our muskets might be shewn them, that they might better comprehend their power and use.

Our people had in the tents two dogs, who were confined close to the place where their arms were deposited; one of them was a large *Newfoundlander*, who had been brought up at sea from a puppy, the other a spaniel; the *Newfoundland* dog had been the favourite of every one on board, being a most excellent guard, and had been taught during the voyage an infinite number of tricks, by which he afforded so much amusement to the whole crew, that there was not a sailor belonging to the ANTELOPE who would not have risked his life for the dog. On entering the tent with their new friends, one of our people went before to the dogs, to see they were tied up, and to prevent any surprize to their visitors; no sooner had they entered the tent, than the two dogs set up a most violent barking, and the natives a noise but little less loud; our people scarcely at first knew whether it arose from fear, or was expressive of astonishment; they ran in and out of the tent, and appeared to wish they might be made to bark again; but the *Malay*
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